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3                   ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

4           A data archival device having an embedded controller compatible with a host computer  
5 interface for disk drives having embedded controllers. The data archival device provides for  
6 simultaneous writing of data to a tape media coupled with an interface of a host computer while  
7 reading of data from a disk coupled with the interface. This simultaneous access to both the tape  
8 and disk drives is accomplished through use of an application process for managing access to the  
9 tape drive, as well as controlling the tape drive to "own" the interface only during periods of time  
10 when information is being communicated over the interface. The tape drive may receive  
11 information over the interface into an on-board buffer and then release the interface to allow the  
12 host computer to access the disk drive. The tape drive may then continue "off-line" to write data to  
13 a tape media or to perform other functions not requiring communication of information over the  
14 interface.  
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